



PROGRAM BRIEF

Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development (EHELD)

Dates of Operation: Feb 10, 2011 – Jan 31, 2016

Prime Implementing Partner: Research Triangle Institute (RTI)

Chief of Party: Dr. David Hall

Geographic Focus: National

Program Cost: \$18,500,000

Target Beneficiaries: Agriculture students at Cuttington University; Engineering students at University of Liberia



Overview

The Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development (EHELD) project is a carefully crafted and detailed blueprint to equip top-performing young Liberian women and men for professional careers as leaders, managers, extension agents, researchers, and small business owners in the two most critical current development sectors in the country – agriculture and engineering.

Current Program

Goals and Objectives are the following:

1. The EHELD project will assist the leaders and faculty of Cuttington University and the University of Liberia to create academic Centers of Excellence in agriculture and engineering
2. EHELD will also develop the pipeline of secondary school students to attract and adequately prepare equal numbers of young Liberian women and men for Agriculture and Engineering CoE programs
3. Lastly, utilizing a powerful public-private-education community out-reach initiative, Liberia Engineering and Agriculture Pact (LEAP), the EHELD project will engage leaders in business, government, and the NGO community in order to build key employer linkages

Since the country's peaceful elections in 2005, private investors and overseas Liberians have returned to invest in the country. Liberia's real gross domestic product grew by 11.2% and 8.4%, respectively, in 2006 and 2007 and by 7.1% and 4.6% in 2008 and 2009, despite the world economic crisis. Large-scale commercial activity in telecommunications, mining, and agriculture—especially rubber and palm oil—has resumed, with leading companies making significant investments. Modernization of the agricultural sector, which employs about 70% of the total labor force, has great potential to contribute to food security, job creation, and poverty reduction



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